



RTCA in Mississippi

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The National Park Service (NPS) staff provide technical assistance to community groups, city, county, tribal governments, and non-profit organizations working to enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation opportunities. We help local leaders plan and design trails and parks; conserve and improve access to natural areas; protect special places; and create recreation opportunities.

The RTCA program in Mississippi offers a wide range of services that can be tailored to meet the needs of an individual project. The NPS staff members are trained facilitators who encourage project leaders to build collaborative partnerships among governmental and non-governmental stakeholders. The program helps communities and groups define their vision, goals, and objectives; analyze issues and opportunities; and develop strategic action plans and time lines for projects. We do not provide financial assistance, but can help project partners identify and secure sources of funding and technical support.

Any community with committed project partners can apply for assistance. Believing the best plans are completed locally, the National Park Service will work with partners to encourage broad-based community participation in planning, designing, and implementing the projects we support.

In 2016, the National Park Service in Mississippi will work on a variety of projects including:

- **Leakesville Blueway** – The project goal is to continue a partnership that will guide the development of a ten-mile blueway on the Chickasawhay River, which feeds into the Pascagoula River. (Location: Leakesville, Mississippi)
- **Village of Eden Strategic Plan** – The project goal is to development of a strategic plan to connect over 100 acres of parks, rivers, and trails, and greenways throughout the Village of Eden and surrounding communities of Yazoo County, Mississippi. (Location: Eden, Mississippi)
- **Mississippi River Trail** – The project goal is to connect all National Parks and Fish and Wildlife Refuges along the Mississippi River via the Mississippi River Trail. The trail will pass through hundreds of communities and create a network of 3,000 miles of trail from Minnesota to Louisiana. Locally, the project develops 71 miles of trail from Vicksburg to Natchez, Mississippi. (Location: Headwaters of Mississippi River in Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico)



Paddlers on the Mississippi River. Photo: Joe Royer

For more information about the RTCA program refer to: www.nps.gov/rtca, or for information about ongoing or potential RTCA projects in Mississippi contact:

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